

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

The proposed broadcast flag will interfere with consumer experimentation with different forms of delivery for digital media.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? The digital flag can certainly interfere with non-standard, experimental content delivery systems.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Any limiting technology, such as the proposed broadcast flag, has the potential to interfere in unforeseen ways with older equipment. Similar problems have been seen in the past in the computer industry with hardware protection keys.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Intent is never the issue with limits on future development. Any requirement to deal with an artificial limitation will in due course bring an end to experimentation in directions other than those already approved.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

By requiring, in the long run, that all equipment be replaced with "standards-meeting" options, consumers will be forced to spend moneys that would otherwise go to purchase of technical improvements.